

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIEP-03

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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R 271706Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5343

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE

SUBJECT: GDR PERMANENT MISSION IN BONN: LOOK AFTER
THREE MONTHS

1. SUMMARY. THE GDR PERMANENT MISSION IN BONN, SET UP
IN JUNE (AT THE SAME TIME THE FRG ESTABLISHED ITS
MISSION IN EAST BERLIN) HAS HAD A FAIRLY DIFFICULT FIRST
THREE MONTHS. APART FROM THE EXPECTED STRAINS
INVOLVED IN CARRYING ON THE DIPLOMATIC BUSINESS OF THE
OTHER GERMAN STATE IN THE FRG'S CAPITAL, THE SPECTER OF
THE GUILLAUME SPY CASE HANGS OVER ALL GDR REPRESENTA-
TIVES, AND THEY ARE FRANK TO ADMIT IT. THIS STRAIN HAS
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NOT PREVENTED GDR MISSION CHIEF KOHL FROM BEING FAIRLY

ACTIVE IN BONN, HOWEVER.

. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING RECENTLY WITH FRG OFFICIALS AND OBSERVERS, AS WELL AS WITH EAST EUROPEAN AND GDR DIPLOMATS, ABOUT THE GDR MISSION'S OPERATIONS DURING ITS FIRST HUNDRED DAYS. THE PICTURE THAT EMERGES IS ONE OF A SMALL, WELL-ORGANIZED AND PROFESSIONALLY STAFFED OPERATION (16 DIPLOMATS SO FAR, AND SEVEN STAFF MEMBERS). ALL OF OUR CONTACTS WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE OF THE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF THE GDR REPRESENTATIVES, NEARLY ALL OF WHOM HAVE SERVED PREVIOUSLY IN OTHER DIPLOMATIC POSTS. MISSION CHIEF KOHL IS DESCRIBED AS A TOUGH AND ASSERTIVE CHARACTER WHO HAS MADE FEW FRIENDS IN FRG CIRCLES DURING HIS BRIEF STAY BUT WHO, AS ONE FRG FONOFF REP SAID, CAN BE COUNTED ON TO PRESENT GDR POLICY ENTIRELY ACCURATELY AND WITH ELAN. THE ROOM FOR MISUNDERSTANDING IS THEREFORE SMALL.

3. KOHL AND HIS MISSION HAVE NOT HAD AN EASY TIME OF IT IN THEIR FIRST THREE MONTHS IN BONN. INITIALLY, THEY WERE OVERLY AGGRESSIVE IN TRYING TO UTILIZE THE FRG FONOFF AS THEIR PRINCIPAL POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO BOLSTER THEIR POSITION THAT THEY WERE REPRESENTING A FOREIGN COUNTRY. EVEN THE GDR MISSION'S POLITICAL COUNSELOR (BAUMGAERTEL) ADMITTED TO US THAT THIS ATTITUDE WAS A MISTAKE. IT SIMPLY RESULTED IN THE FONOFF'S ISSUING FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL ITS OFFICIALS TO DEAL WITH THE GDR REPS ONLY ON FOREIGN POLICY-RELATED MATTERS. ALL OTHER ISSUES RAISED BY THE GDR REPS WERE TO BE DEALT WITH BY REFERRING THE INDIVIDUALS TO THE PROPER POINT OF CONTACT, I.E., THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY. THE CHANNELS ARE NOW FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED: THE SENIOR GDR REPS SEE SANNE, THE EXPERIENCED INNER-GERMAN HAND AND FORMER AIDE TO CHANCELLERY MINISTER BAHR, IN THE CHANCELLERY; AND IN THE FONOFF, THEY SEE REPS OF THE SECTION RESPONSIBLE FOR BERLIN AND ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. THE GDR MISSION'S INITIALLY ABRASIVE APPROACH HAS CAUSED A SERIOUS PROBLEM TO DEVELOP WITH FONMIN GENSCHER, HIMSELF AN EAST GERMAN REFUGEE. GENSCHER NOW KEEPS A CAREFUL EYE ON ALL GDR CONTACTS WITH HIS MINISTRY AND MAKES PRACTICALLY ALL DECISIONS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE GDR MISSION'S OPERATIONS IN THE DIPLOMATIC FIELD, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DECIDING ON WHERE TO

PUT KOHL IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST. (TO KOHL'S DISMAY, HE WILL BE LISTED IN THE NEW DIPLOMATIC LIST UNDER THE RUBRIC, "OTHER MISSIONS", OF WHICH THERE IS ONLY ONE, THE GDR. HE HAS REPORTEDLY PROTTESTED THIS DEVELOPMENT, TO NO AVAIL.)

5. THE MISSION'S HANDLING OF ITS CONTACTS WITH THE INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY HAS ALSO CREATED DIFFICULTIES WITH MINISTER FRANKE. FOR OBVIOUS OPTICAL REASONS, THE MISSION HAS TENDED TO AVOID OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH THE MINISTRY BUT CLEARLY WISHED

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TO HAVE SOME FORM OF INFORMAL CONTACTS. ITS EFFORTS AT ESTABLISHING THESE HAVE BEEN FAIRLY HAM-HANDED: E.G., TO INVITE SENIOR ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO THE OCTOBER 7 NATIONAL DAY FESTIVITIES, IT HAD SEVERAL INVITATIONS DELIVERED AT HOME TO ONE OFFICIAL WITH THE REQUEST THAT HE PASS THEM OUT TO HIS OTHER INVITED COLLEAGUES AT THE OFFICE. PREDICTABLY, FRANKE HAS NOT BEEN AMUSED BY THIS HANDLING OF HIS MINISTRY. (THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS REPORTEDLY HAVING A TOUGH TIME TRYING TO DECIDE EXACTLY WHO SHOULD REPRESENT IT AT THE OCTOBER 7 AFFAIRS.)

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6. HANGING OVER ALL OF THE GDR MISSION ACTIVITIES IS, OF COURSE, THE GUILLAUME SPY MESS. GDR OFFICIALS ARE FRANK TO ADMIT THAT THIS CASE, BREAKING AS IT DID JUST BEFORE THE MISSION WAS SET UP, HAS PUT A SERIOUS CRIMP IN THEIR CONTACT WORK. THE GDR MISSION POLITICAL COUNSELOR TOLD US THAT MANY PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE MISSION HAD EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH GOOD TIES WERE JUST NOT MAKING THEMSELVES AVAILABLE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF MANY SPD MEMBERS WHO RESENT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE SHABBY TREATMENT BY THE GDR OF WILLY BRANDT, WHO HAD MADE THE BEGINNING OF RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES POSSIBLE. KOHL KNOWS OF THIS SENTIMENT AND HAS SOUGHT, SO FAR IN VAIN, TO CALL ON BRANDT (IN HIS SPD PARTY CHAIRMAN CAPACITY). KOHL TOLD ONE OF OUR CONTACTS THAT THE GDR AUTHORITIES ARE PUTTING A LOT OF PRESSURE ON HIM TO ESTABLISH GOOD WORKING RELATIONS WITH BRANDT AND PROFESS NOT TO UNDERSTAND WHY BRANDT IS REFUSING EVEN TO SEE KOHL.

-7. THE EFFECTS OF THE GUILLAUME AFFAIR WILL PROBABLY PASS WITH TIME, BUT FEW OF OUR CONTACTS EXPECT THE GDR MISSION TO HAVE AN EASY TIME OF IT IN BONN FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. MOST GERMAN POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS ARE SIMPLY TOO LEARY ABOUT DOING ANYTHING MORE THAN THE MOST FORMAL BUSINESS WITH THE EAST GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES. NEITHER POLITICALLY NOR IN ANY OTHER WAY IS THERE MUCH ADVANTAGE FOR WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS TO BE SEEN TO BE CLOSE TO THE GDR REPS. THE SPLIT AND CONSEQUENT STRAINS BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG OVER THE PAST QUARTER CENTURY HAVE LEFT THEIR MARK ON WEST AS WELL AS EAST GERMANS, AND IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE GDR MISSION IS ACCEPTED IN BONN AS A NORMAL FACT OF POLITICAL LIFE.

HILLENBRAND

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